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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

PORTUGUESE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

The normal increase in the Portuguese national population, according to Diario da Manhã, Lisbon daily newspaper, is 90,000 persons a year. The paper adds that in comparison with the rest of Europe, Portugal has not yet reached a demographic saturation point. On the other hand, it is stated, the development of sanitation is decreasing the mortality index to the stage wherein a growth of 100,000 persons yearly is foreseen so the saturation may be reached within a few years.

In the solution of this problem, the paper continues, birth control cannot be considered for moral, religious, and even economic reasons, and therefore, it says, employment must be found for the excess population, perhaps by reducing the length of the workday. In the paper's view, the best solution would be a better distribution of the population both in Portugal and in its colonies and the development of the economy at home and overseas.(1)

The newspaper Jornal do Comercio states that the Portuguese National Development Plan which becomes effective in 1953 is faced with the problem of employing the growing population. Industry certainly cannot absorb the 50,000 additional persons eligible for work yearly, it states. Moreover, it continues, the nation's agriculture must produce more to guarantee its foodstuff supply in the future.

The newspaper says that the Development Plan will have to give priority to the appreciation of forest resources and to other improvements in soil yield. In its view, industry and agriculture must cooperate precisely in utilizing the idle manpower on the farm. According to the article, Mr Amaral reasoned that if the idea of removing people from farming is repugnant, the sight of farmers living in misery on the land is even more repugnant.

- 1 -

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The newspaper concludes that whereas Portuguese agriculture must improve the quality of its produce, it must also produce more, at least enough to maintain its present level of employment even after work methods become modernized.(2)

Another issue of the same newspaper says that according to official statistics, the labor force of Portugal in 1950 was 5,209,720 persons, of whom 2,569,737 were employed in domestic and similar services, 1,419,134 in agriculture and livestock raising, and 157,627 in unknown or poorly defined activities.

The industrial activity employing the greatest number of persons was textile production (including clothing manufacture) with 143,201, it is stated. The paper adds that next in order of number of persons employed was building and public works, with 172,053; food industry, with 63,348; transportation and communication, with 83,684; wood and wood products, 58,889; nonprecious metalwork 57,051; hides and skins, 55,892; fishing and related activities, 36,889; coal and other mining, 14,230; unspecified nonmetallic mineral industries, 16,010; chemical industries, 8,869; paper and related industries, 12,785.

The paper also says that the total number of salaried employees among the labor force of the country was 1,023,172, of whom 864,518 were men and 191,654 women; and that the number of salaried employees in Lisbon at the close of 1950 was 82,200, and in Oporto 32,842.(3)

SOURCES

1. Diario da Manhã, 27 Nov 52
2. Jornal do Comercio, 25 Nov 52
3. Ibid., 13 May 52

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- 2 -

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